

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 AF-10 EUR-25 OPR-02 SY-10 USSS-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OC-06 A-01 DRC-01 /164 W
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O P 161730Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0139

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 8217

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, MOPS

SUBJECT: MRS MEIR SPEAKS ABOUT WAR

1. SUMMARY. IN FORTY MINUTE SPEECH TO KNESSET OCT 16 MRS MEIR SAID ISRAEL WOULD NEVER AGREE TO CEASEFIRE BASED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO JUNE 4, 1967 LINES AND SCOFFED AT ARAB SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCH ARRANGEMENT. SHE SAID CEASEFIRE WOULD ONLY COME WHEN ARABS HAD BEEN DEFEATED ON BOTH FRONTS. SHE ALSO VOICED TOTAL DISBELIEF IN ARAB ASSERTIONS THAT ARAB GOAL IN PRESENT WAR IS ONLY RETURN OF TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL IN 1967 AND STATED THAT ARAB AIM, AS I PAST, WAS DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. (SHE MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO SADAT'S SPEECH EARLIER IN DAY OR TO HIS MENTION OF PEACE CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES.) MRS MEIR SAID EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR STARTING WAR, SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN AREA HAD BEEN IRRESPONSIBLE AND DANGEROUS, FRENCH EMBARGO WAS FRAUDULENT, AND US HAD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED

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ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL AND INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY SUMMARY TRANSLATION OF SPEECH.

3. AFTER RECALLING SURPRISE ATTACK BY SYRIA AND EGYPT ON VERY DAY OF ATONEMENT AND PRAISING WAY IN WHICH SOLDIERS HAD RALLIED TO THEIR UNITS STRAIGHT FROM SYNAGOGUE, PRIME MINISTER DEVOTED A FEW SHORT BUT FEELING REMARKS TO DEAD, WOUNDED, PRISONERS OF WAR AND THEIR FAMILIES AND STATED THAT ISRAEL WOULD ACCEPT NO CEASEFIRE THAT WOULD NOT INVOLVE RETURN OF ALL PRISONERS OF WAR.

4. MRS MEIR STATED WAR AGAINST SYRIA WAS NOW BEING FOUGHT BEYOND CEASEFIRE LINES, SYRIAN STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, BUT WAR AGAINST SYRIA WAS NOT OVER YET. ON SOUTHERN FRONT, FIRST ATTACK HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO A HALT, FURTHER TENTATIVE ATTACKS HAD BEEN BLOCKED AND INITIATIVE WAS NO LONGER IN THE HANDS OF ENEMY. AT THIS VERY MOMENT AND IDF FORCE WAS OPERATING ALSO WEST OF CANAL. FULL REPORT ON IDF OPERATIONS AND PLANS AND FORECAST WOULD BE POINTLESS AT THIS MOMENT.

5. SHE CONTINUED ACHIEVEMENTS OF IDF COULD BE UNDERSTOOD ONLY IF ONE WAS AWARE OF SPIRIT OF ISRAEL'S YOUTH AND OF THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS THAT THEY REPRESENTED HISTORIC TRADITION OF HEROISM AND WERE FIGHTING FOR THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THEIR COUNTRY. MRS MEIR ALSO NOTED SINGLEMINDEDNESS WITH WHICH PEOPLE AT HOME WERE STANDING BEHIND SOLDIERS.

6. SHE SAID IT WAS UNDENIABLE THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD BEEN ATTACKERS, AND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEAR HEAVY MORAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR THEY WILL BE HELD TO THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

7. PRIME MINISTER THEN PROCEEDED TO GIVE FIGURES OF STRENGTH IN MEN, AIRCRAFT, TANKS AND MISSILES OF ARAB ARMIES INVOLVED IN THE WAR, AND ADDED THAT OTHER ARAB STATES WERE STANDING READY TO JOIN THE WAR. IT DID NOT TAKE MUCH IMAGINATION, SHE SAID, TO ENVISAGE WHAT ISRAEL'S FATE WOULD HAVE BEEN IF ITS BORDERS HAD BEEN THOSE OF FOURTH OF JUNE 1967. CLAIM OF ATTACKING GOVERNMENTS THAT THEIR AIM WAS LIMITED TO REGAINING UNCLASSIFIED

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THOSE BORDERS, WAS MERE PRETENSE; THERE WAS AMPLE EVIDENCE FROM THEIR OWN AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS THAT THEIR REAL PURPOSE WAS TOTAL DEFEAT OF ISRAEL. ISRAEL MUST REALIZE THIS AND MAKE ALL CONCERNED REALIZE THIS IF IT IS TO BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS THAT WILL BE DEMANDED IN THIS WAR.

8. MRS MEIR STATED USSR WAS TRYING TO PROFIT FROM THIS WAR AGAINST ISRAEL. IT HAD PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT

SIX-DAY WAR AND IN SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. SOVIET HAD PUT EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMIES ON THEIR FEET AGAIN AND EQUIPPED THEM WITH WEALTH OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. ONE RECALLED, NO DOUBT, PRESENCE OF SOVIET PILOTS AND MISILE CREWS IN EGYPT IN 1970. USSR'S MILITARY PREPARATION OF ARAB FORCES WAS NOT FOR DEFENSE BECAUSE USSR KNEW THAT ARAB COUNTRIES FACED NO DANGER AT ALL. SOVIETS TRAINED AND EQUIPPED ARAB FORCES FOR ATTACK. SOVIET HAND IN PRESENT WAR WAS DEMONSTRATED BY AIRLIFT AND SEALIFT OF ARMS TO SYRIA AND EGYPT SINCE WAR BEGAN. ISRAEL HAD INTELLIGENCE THAT SOVIETS WERE INVOLVING EAST EUROPEAN SATELLITES IN THIS ARMS SUPPLY EFFORT.

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

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9. MRS MEIR EMPHASIZED THAT SOVIET BEHAVIOR WAS MORE THAN UNFRIENDLY; IT WAS IRRESPONSIBLE, ENDANGERING NOT ONLY ISRAEL, BUT ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST AND WORLD.

10. MRS MEIR SAID IN UN AND IN PRESS THERE WAS TALK OF CEASE-FIRE. BUT MRS MEIR ASSURED KNESSET THAT SO FAR NO CEASEFIRE

PROPOSAL WHATEVER HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO GOI, AND SUBJECT DID NOT NEED TO BE DISCUSSED. EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY BEATEN TO WANT A CEASEFIRE. THERE HAD BEEN RIDICULOUS PRONOUNCEMENTS BY ARAB POLITICIANS ABOUT A CEASEFIRE ON CONDITION THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW TO JUNE 4, 1967 LINES. TIME FOR CEASEFIRE WOULD COME WHEN ENEMY FORCES WERE BROKEN. AS HAD HAPPENED IN PAST MIDDLE EAST WARS, WHEN THIS MOMENT APPROACHED, OUTSIDERS WOULD VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES TO TRY TO SAVE THOSE WHO ATTACKED ISRAEL THROUGH A CEASEFIRE. BUT ONLY IDF STRENGTH WOULD PRODUCE CEASEFIRE.

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11. AS FOR JORDANIAN TROOPS IN SYRIA, MRS. MEIR SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS ISRAEL DID NOT WANT WAR WITH JORDAN, WHICH ALSO WAS NOT IN JORDAN'S INTEREST. JORDANIAN ANNOUNCEMENT SAID DISPATCH OF FORCES TO SYRIA WAS TO BE IN ADDITION TO TYING DOWN ISRAELI FORCES ALONG JORDAN-ISRAEL

LINE. THIS REPRESENTED DETERIORATION OF SITUATION. JORDANIAN FORCES IN SYRIA WOULD HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CHANCES.

12. TURNING TO WESTERN EUROPE, MRS MEIR SAID THAT AS IN PREVIOUS WARS, EMBARGOES HAD BEEN IMPOSED AGAINST ISRAEL WHILE IT WAS FIGHTING FOR ITS LIFE. PREDICTION THAT MIRAGES SOLD BY FRANCE TO LIBYA WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO EGYPT HAD PROVED TO BE CORRECT. BRITAIN HAD HELD UP SUPPLIES THAT WERE VITAL FOR ISRAEL'S WAR EFFORT. ONE MIGHT WELL BE SHOCKED AT IMMORAL SELFISHNESS OF POLICIES OF ENLIGHTENED NATIONS.

13. TURNING TO US, MRS MEIR STATED: QUOTE ...FRIENDSHIP OF US, ITS PEOPLE AND ITS GOVT, HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEAR TO US AND IS PARTICULARLY DEAR TO US IN THESE TIMES OF TRIBULATION. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT USG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER BLOOD-DRENCHED EVENTS IN THIS PART OF WORLD; CONCERN ARISING FROM TRADITIONAL PEACEFUL POLICY OF US AND FROM AMERICA'S DESIRE TO PREVENT BLOODSHED, AND IN WELL-FOUNDED US INTEREST THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REGIONAL BRUSH-FIRES THAT ARE LIABLE TO SPREAD AND FLARE UP. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT USG SEEKS ISRAEL'S IDENTITY

AND THAT ITS FEELINGS OF FRIENDSHIP
C USPS

ARE NOT AT EXPENSE
OF LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF OTHER NATIONS, INCLUDING

ARAB STATES. WE ARE AT PAINS TO MAKE THE US UNDERSTAND OUR NEEDS AND POLICIES. WE APPRECIATE, AS ALWAYS, WARMHEARTED IDENTIFICATION AND UNSTINTED AID OF AMERICAN JEWS, WHOSE HEARTS TURN TO ISRAEL IN THESE GRAVE HOURS OF STRUGGLE. I THANK US PRESIDENT

AND AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN NAME OF PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, FOR HAVING ACTED

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AMERICAN TRADITION OF COMING TO AID OF A NATION

THAT FIGHTS AGAINST AGGRESSION. IN VIEW OF ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF
ARMS AND EQUIPMENT THAT FLOW TO ARAB COUNTRIES FROM SOVIET
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UNION AT CONTINUOUSLY INCREASING RATE, US CONTINUES TO RESPOND
TO OUR REQUESTS AND PROVIDES QUANTITIES AND CATEGORIES OF
WEAPONS REQUIRED BY SITUATION AT RATE REQUIRED BY THE SITUATION.
WE DO NOT WANT ANYONE TO FIGHT IN OUR PLACE, BUT WE ARE ENTITLED
TO HELP IN DEFENDING OURSELVES. I AM CONVINCED THAT US WILL DO
ALL THAT IS REQUIRED TO DETER DANGEROUS TENDENCIES IN POLICY AND
MOVES OF SOVIET UNION, AND WILL GIVE US ALL AID WE REQUIRE TO
DEFEND OUR EXISTENCE AND REPEL ENEMY. IN VIEW OF CONDITIONS IN
WHICH WE FIND OURSELVES FACING ENEMY FORCES OF SIZE WHICH ARE
ALIGNED AGAINST US, WE ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A GREAT, ALL-OUT EFFORT,
ALSO CONCERNING MONEY NEEDED TO COVER COST OF WAR. END QUOTE.

13. PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCED PARTICULARS OF COMPULSORY AND
VOLUNTARY WAR LOAN AND OF BUDGET DISPOSITIONS MADE IN ORDER TO
FINANCE WAR; ISRAEL WOULD PAY FOR WAR, WHILE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH
PEOPLE WOULD ENABLE COUNTRY TO CARRY ON WITH ITS NORMAL PEACE-TIME
TASKS. SHE PRAISED REMARKABLE AND ENCOURAGING DEGREE TO WHICH
ISRAELI ARAB POPULATION HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS IDENTIFICATION WITH
ISRAEL IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS.

14. IN A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY LIKE ISRAEL, MRS. MEIR CONTINUED,
CRITICISM WAS ALWAYS PERMITTED AND ALWAYS NECESSARY, BUT SHE
HOPED THAT EVERYONE, COALITION AND OPPOSITION ALIKE, WOULD BE
AWARE OF NEED FOR UNITY AND REALIZE THAT NATION WAS NOW FACING
ONE SINGLE, SIMPLE TASK: QUOTE ...TO REPEL ENEMY AND
BREAK HIS STRENGTH ON BOTH FRONTS. END QUOTE. THAT TASK
WOULD BE PURSUED TO END. ISRAEL HAD NEVER REGARDED WAR AS
MEANS OF SETTling DISPUTES; EVER SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IT
HAD HELD THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE, AND COULD BEST AND MOST
EASILY BE DONE, BY NEGOTIATIONS. QUOTE NOW, WHILE FIGHTING
IS CONTINUING, I DO NOT PROPOSE TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES AND
AIMS. TO PUSH BACK ENEMY AND SHATTER HIS STRENGTH IS ESSENTIAL
CONDITION OF ASSURING OUR FUTURE. END QUOTE. THAT IS WHAT
ISRAEL WILL CONCENTRATE ON UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, WHICH WOULD
BE QUOTE...WHEN WE SUCCEED IN BEATING THE ENEMY. END QUOTE.
QUOTE WE ON OUR PART WILL DO EVERYTHING, AND I REPEAT EVERY-
THING, IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, BUT
WE WILL NOT BE IMPATIENT. END QUOTE.
KEATING

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